

MONTHLY REPORT OF RIVER AND FLOOD CONDITIONS

REPORT FOR:

MONTH

March

YEAR

1997

SIGNATURE

Amy McCullough/Michael Decker

In Charge of HSA

DATE

4/07/97

TO: Hydrometeorological Information Center, W/OH2
 NOAA / National Weather Service
 1325 East West Highway, Room 7230
 Silver Spring, MD 20910-3283

When no flooding occurs, include miscellaneous river conditions, such as significant rises, record low stages, ice conditions, snow cover, droughts, and hydrologic products issued (WSOM E-41).

An active subtropical jet stream over the southwest continued to bring widespread rainfall over much of West Central Texas during the month of March.

On March 9th minor river flooding began late in the evening along the Llano River near Mason as the river exceeded bankfull of 6 feet. The river remained above bankfull through the morning of the 13th with a crest of 9.9 feet at 1120 PM on the 9th. A river flood warning was also issued for the Llano River at Junction, however the river there remained below its bankfull of 14 and flood stage of 16 feet, cresting at stage of 8.78 feet 1 PM on the 10th.

The heavy rainfall began in the late afternoon of Sunday, March 9 as a cold front become stationary over southern sections of the HSA. Precipitable water amounts were 250 percent of normal. Rainfall estimates over 6 inches occurred Sunday night over portions of Mason, Kimble, and southwest San Saba Counties. Flood warnings were issued for these counties from Sunday evening through Monday morning. Several FM roads were closed in Kimble County due to water over low water crossings. The low water crossing at the South Llano Park had nearly 4 feet of water over it at 8 AM on March 10.

Additional heavy rains continued over the Northern Edwards Plateau...Northwest Hill Country and Southern Heartland through March 12 as an upper level low slowly moved over the region from northern Mexico. Highway 377, and Farm to Market Roads 385, 479, and 2169 in Kimble County were closed most of the day of March 12th, as 1 to 2 additional inches of rain filled low water crossings. Junction received 1.52 inches on the 9th, 0.69 inches on the 10th, and 0.93 inches on the 11th.

The heavy rains on the 9th through 11th were preceded by widespread heavy rains on the 1st and 2nd of March in which nearly an inch of rain fell much of the HSA. Minor flooding of Spring Creek occurred on March 2 near Mertzon as water flowed over Highway 202.

For the month, San Angelo received 2.69 inches of rain, 1.78 inches above normal. The January through March total rainfall is 7.60 inches, which is 4.82 inches above normal. This January through March total is the third wettest on record (since the late 1800s), and the wettest since 1923. The Northwest Hill Country received an average of over four inches of rain along the Llano River basin with Junction reporting 4.39 inches for March. Abilene received only 0.98 inches of rain, 0.38 inches below normal for the month. For the year so far, Abilene has received 4.56 inches of rain, which is 1.01 inch above normal.

Additional rainfall totals for the month of March across the HSA:

Brady (McCulloch Co.)	3.84 in.	Ballinger (Runnels Co.)	1.85 in.
Menard (Menard Co.)	2.76 in.	Roscoe (Nolan Co.)	1.32 in.
Sonora (Sutton Co.)	2.52 in.	Albany (Shackelford Co.)	2.89 in.

Reservoirs remain below conservation levels:

O.H. Ivie Reservoir	Current-1544 ft	Conservation-1551.5
E.V. Spence Reservoir	Current-1858.36 ft	Conservation-1898.0
O.C. Fisher Lake	Current-1877 ft	Conservation-1908.0
Lake Colorado City	Current-2060.64 ft	Spillway-2070.2
Champion Creek Reservoir	Current-2066.20 ft	Spillway-2083.0
Twin Buttes Reservoir *	Current-1920.03 ft	Conservation-1940.2

Note:Twin Buttes Reservoir is being kept at 1920 ft for construction.